

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1833 - SB 2180

February 7, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a candidate in a primary election to receive more than 50 percent of the votes to be nominated rather than receiving the highest number of votes. Adds language declaring that if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, then the coordinator of elections shall set a runoff election between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes in the primary election. Establishes an effective date of December 31, 2015.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent a runoff election is required for a presidential primary election, a congressional primary election, or a primary election to the Tennessee General Assembly, the increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$4,500,000. To the extent a runoff election is required for a county primary elections, the mandatory increase in local government expenditures is estimated to exceed \$10,200.

Assumptions:

- According to the Secretary of State (SOS), the first year impacted by this bill could be FY15-16 as a result of the March 2016 presidential preference primary election.
- According to SOS, no candidates received more than 50 percent of the vote in the republican presidential preference primary elections of 2008 and 2012. As a result, runoff elections would have been required under this bill.
- SOS indicates that runoff elections would have been required under this bill for the 2010 republican primary election for Governor and for the 2008 democratic primary election for U.S. Senate.
- SOS indicates that the cost to conduct a runoff election for any presidential primary election, any congressional primary election, and any primary election to the Tennessee General Assembly, would be approximately \$4,577,000. SOS indicates such cost would be borne by the state.
- According to the SOS, the cost to conduct runoff elections for county primary elections would range between \$10,200 and \$597,000 depending on the county.
- SOS indicates the cost to hold a runoff election for county primary elections would be borne by the applicable county.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a more compact, stylized manner, followed by "D." and "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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